

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Military Observations in Orsova and Turnu Severin	DATE DISTR.	27 April 1954
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1. Orsova. Most of the people seen along the Strada Traian in Orsova, Rumania, in the summer of 1953 were in military uniform. Some of the uniforms had blue shoulder boards with red piping and others had green shoulder boards. Large numbers of horses were to be seen in front of various houses and hay and straw was piled in some courtyards.
2. It was reported that Russian troops in Soviet uniform were stationed in Orsova as instructors to the Rumanian troops.
3. Rumanian soldiers are to be seen walking along the quay and in the central part of Orsova during the evening. For the most part they wear red or black shoulder boards, though a few blue ones were observed. The military casern in Orsova, which formerly maintained a regiment was fully occupied.
4. In October 1953, in Orsova, 38 men in Rumanian army uniform were seen marching west on the Stalin Strada. They had the green shoulder boards of the border guard troops, and each man was leading a German police dog on a leash at his left.
5. Turnu Severin. In Turnu Severin there are two military caserns. One casern is located on the right side of the road from harbor to the center of town as it curves to the left going into the town, just a few minutes walk from the harbor. Within the grounds of the casern near the harbor, which is surrounded by a high wall, are one large brick building and two smaller ones. In the summer of 1953, trucks were parked within the casern grounds.
6. Rumanian military and naval personnel were seen entering and leaving the casern. Both black and red shoulder boards were noted, in addition to the following insignia: a grenade with crossed shovel and pick, a grenade with crossed cannons, and an oval with crossed hammers through it. Each man wore the insignia of the Republica Populara Romana (R.P.R.). Some of the troops with red shoulder boards wore no additional insignia. A very few security troops with blue shoulder boards were seen walking around the town.

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